

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF SOLID WASTES

Water Quality Effects

Impairment of surface and groundwater quality due to inadequate management practices for the storage, collection, transportation, and disposal of municipal, industrial, agricultural, and other special wastes, such as hazardous wastes, sludges, and street sweepings.

Air Quality Effects

Impairment of air quality due to uncontrolled burning of solid waste.

Impairment of air quality due to emissions from solid waste collection and transportation vehicles.

Public Health and Safety Effects

Production of flies, rodents, and other vectors of disease as a result of poorly managed solid waste.

Transmission of pathogens and parasites through sewage sludge and other hazardous waste.

Occurrence of occupational or safety hazards such as injuries from fires and explosions, traffic hazards, and contact with hazardous wastes.

Aesthetic and Nuisance Effects

Annoyance caused by flies, gnats, and other flying pests.

Noise, odors, smoke, and unsightliness associated with the handling of wastes.

Ecological Effects

Disruption of the estuary by filling the shallow reaches, mudflats, and marshes of the Bay.

Disruption of the established botanical and zoological communities by the filling of canyons.

Resource Depletion Effects

Acceleration of resource depletion due to increase in annual waste production and slow progress in resource recovery from solid waste.

SPECIFIC REGIONAL PROBLEMS

An estimated 10 million tons of municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastes needed to be disposed of in the nine bay area counties in 1975.

The location of past and present solid waste disposal sites in close proximity to the Bay-Delta ground and surface waters has resulted in impairment of water quality.

Since most of the existing disposal sites will be completely filled in less than ten years, new disposal sites or disposal methods have to be developed in the near future.

There are no regional solid waste management programs for various types of wastes, especially those for hazardous wastes and residual wastes.

Alternative regional solid waste management systems and their environmental, economic, and social impacts have not been fully evaluated.

There are no stable markets for products of county and subregional source separation and resource recovery systems.

There are no statewide standards covering measuring of wastes and data collection, recording, and reporting.

There is no coordination of reporting requirements of regional and state agencies for landfill site operations.

